

TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2003/08/22 : CIA-RDP61S00750A000500040012-8

CHAL-0604

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19 March 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans) 25X1A9A

THROUGH : Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P *Concur*
Chief of Operations, DPD-DD/P *PC*

SUBJECT : Navy Request for Coverage of Vlone Bay

REFERENCE : Memorandum for Chairman, ARC, from Navy,
Subject: TALENT Coverage of Vlone Bay,
Dated 13 March 1959 (CHAL-0601) Attached

1. Attached is a memorandum from the Navy requesting coverage of Vlone Bay, the principal objective of which is really to ascertain whether the four W-class submarines are still there. The Navy admits that checking on construction is not a major argument inasmuch as construction doesn't move fast enough normally to require coverage within six weeks. The other ARC members do not share the Navy's intensity of interest.

2. I should report that the JCS had some time ago, according to Major Moran of the JCS, authorized the Navy to undertake aerial surveillance of Vlone Bay. However, this was shot down by the State Department and the Agency, according to Moran.

3. In view of the disturbed conditions in the Middle East, the tenseness regarding Berlin, and the possible involvement of the Sixth Fleet in some hostile maneuver arising from the Soviets taking advantage of both of these circumstances, I believe that we would be in a difficult position, to put it negatively, if we did not undertake the coverage at this time, assuming that such coverage would not jeopardize our major target objectives.

4. I should also mention in this connection that next Monday I will begin preparation with ARC members of argument and targets for planning in East Germany and Poland in connection with the Berlin crisis. The Army,

NAVY review(s) completed.

This document contains information
referring to Project CHALICE

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as you know, has for some time been concerned about its ignorance on IRBM in the area. The Air Force has just come in with a paper proposing that plans be laid to take into account three possible contingencies which might arise. Our purpose here would not be to recommend action now but to have available plans should need for immediate action arise.

5. Recommendation: That recoverage of Vlong Bay at this time be approved; that the Project be alerted as to the probable need for recoverage fifteen days hence although I consider it my responsibility to review the situation at that time, and make specific recommendation on the matter.

[Redacted Signature]

25X1

JAMES Q. REBER
Chief, Special Requirements Staff
DPD-DD/P

Attachment
CHAL-0601 Copy 1

Recommendation in paragraph 5
APPROVED:

[Redacted Signature]

23 MAR 1959

RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Deputy Director
(Plans)